

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Lieske Giese, RN, MPH

Director/Health Officer

715-839-4718

[Elizabeth.Giese@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Giese@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

**TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION EFFORTS ARE WORKING**

**Eau Claire, WI-May 26, 2015-** The United States continues to have one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world with potentially negative consequences. Giving birth during the teen years has been linked with increased medical risks and emotional, social, and financial costs to the mother and her children.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) rates in the U.S. in 2013 were down 10% from 2012 so improvements are being made. Even though the teen birth rate in Eau Claire County is lower than the Wisconsin average, with rates at 14.4 births in Eau Claire

County compared to 19.9 births statewide (see above graph), there is still more work to be done. In 2013, there were 62 births to females under age 20 in Eau Claire County.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department supports and promotes the efforts happening for National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Our Family Planning Clinic aims to create a community where all teens will be equipped to make informed decisions about their reproductive health. The clinic is using the question “Would you like to become pregnant in the next year?” to get women of all ages to really think more proactively about planning for their pregnancies. This approach comes from The One Key Question® Initiative which is an evidence-based strategy from the Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health.

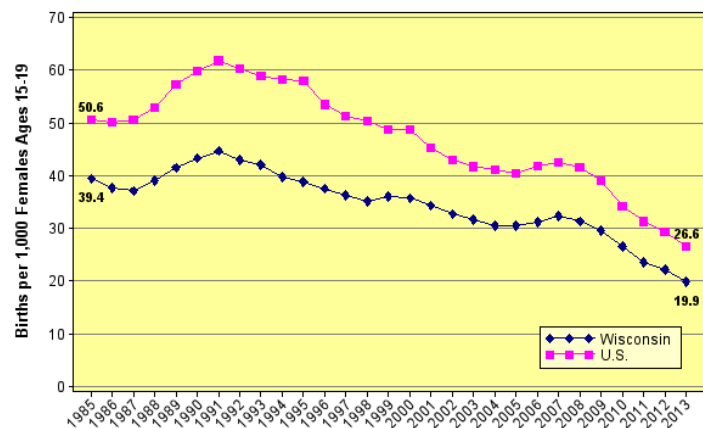
The Family Planning Clinic is making additional efforts to reach those at higher-risk for unintended pregnancies. One unique effort that the clinic has started is providing educational teachings on reproductive health, pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the local Juvenile Detention Center. Public Health Department Nurses also have a strong relationship with local schools and are a valuable resource for the staff and students. “We want teens in Eau Claire to be safe and healthy and to understand the importance of delaying pregnancy,” says Lieske Giese, Health Officer/Director of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

The [Eau Claire City-County Health Department Family Planning Clinic](#) offers education for clients, a variety of birth control options, pregnancy testing and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing and treatment. For more information, please visit [www.ehealthdepartment.org](http://www.ehealthdepartment.org) or call 715-839-6988 to make an appointment. To learn more about teenage pregnancy, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>.

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**Teen Birth Rates, Wisconsin and U.S., 1985-2013**

Births per 1,000 females age 15-19



Last Revised: February 25, 2015